



Ethical Dilemmas/Case Studies

Name: _____

Date: _____

Directions: Read each case study given. After reading case study, answer questions that are asked. Be prepared to share responses with the class.

As a marriage counselor, you are interviewing your clients? Through the interview, you come to the conclusion that one of the spouses is physically abusing their child? What should you do?

- A. What are the facts?
- B. Identify and define the ethical problem?
- C. What options do you see are available to resolve the dilemma?
- D. How would you resolve the dilemma?
- E. What values did you rely on to make your decision?
- F. What consequences (if any) do you see your decision has on others involved?
- G. Could you personally live with your decision?

You are a psychiatrist and your client, a member of the opposite sex, is having a session with you. During the course of the session, the client has expressed romantic interest in you. What should you do?

- A. What are the facts?
- B. Identify and define the ethical problem?
- C. What options do you see are available to resolve the dilemma?
- D. How would you resolve the dilemma?
- E. What values did you rely on to make your decision?
- F. What consequences (if any) do you see your decision has on others involved?
- G. Could you personally live with your decision?

As a minister, you have been counseling a troubled parishioner. Through your visits you have discovered that one of your parishioners has committed a serious crime that has caused injury to others. What do you do?

- A. What are the facts?
- B. Identify and define the ethical problem?
- C. What options do you see are available to resolve the dilemma?
- D. How would you resolve the dilemma?
- E. What values did you rely on to make your decision?
- F. What consequences (if any) do you see your decision has on others involved?
- G. Could you personally live with your decision?

As a social worker, you have been working with a child custody suit. You have recommended in favor of the father to have permanent custody. Two weeks after the trial, you receive a gift certificate in the mail from the father with the words "Thanks" attached. What do you do?

- A. What are the facts?
- B. Identify and define the ethical problem?
- C. What options do you see are available to resolve the dilemma?
- D. How would you resolve the dilemma?
- E. What values did you rely on to make your decision?
- F. What consequences (if any) do you see your decision has on others involved?
- G. Could you personally live with your decision?

As a daycare worker, you are in the watchful care of a four-year-old boy. The child comes from what seems a very educated and nice family. You have noticed that the child has been coming to daycare with bruises underneath his shirt. You have questioned the boy but get little information from him. What do you do?
What are the facts?

- A. Identify and define the ethical problem?
- B. What options do you see are available to resolve the dilemma?
- C. How would you resolve the dilemma?
- D. What values did you rely on to make your decision?
- E. What consequences (if any) do you see your decision has on others involved?
- F. Could you personally live with your decision?

You are dealing with an elderly woman living in an assisted living center. You have noticed on many occasions that gifts from family members seem to be disappearing. You have questioned the elderly woman and she mentions that one of your friend/colleague is keeping it safe for her. You question your friends/colleagues and get the “I don’t know what you are talking about” spiel. What do you do?

- A. What are the facts?
- B. Identify and define the ethical problem?
- C. What options do you see are available to resolve the dilemma?
- D. How would you resolve the dilemma?
- E. What values did you rely on to make your decision?
- F. What consequences (if any) do you see your decision has on others involved?
- G. Could you personally live with your decision?

Case studies developed by:

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Resources used:

“Everyone Else Does It!” Finance and Business. Sierra Community College. 28 Aug 2007.

<http://fab.sierracollege.edu/Projects/Ethics/Ethics%20Lesson%20Plan.htm>

McNamara Carter. “Complete Guide to Ethics Management: An Ethics Toolkit for Managers” (1999).

<http://www.mapnp.org/library/ethics/ethxgde.htm>.